

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Liming Tsau

Appl. No.: *To Be Assigned*

Filed: January 5, 2004

For: **High Density Metal Capacitor
Using Via Etch Stopping Layer as
Field Dielectric in Dual-
Damascene Interconnect Process**

Confirmation No.: *To Be Assigned*

Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1875.0230001

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicant has listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may

not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicant has checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final

Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

- ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

- ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.
- ☒ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No.09/753,664, filed

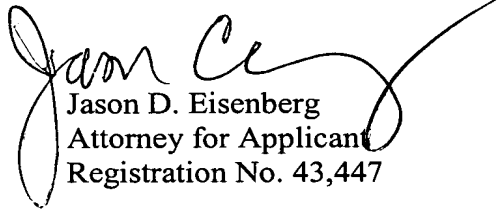
January 4, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO 1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,447

Date: January 5, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

#215024.1

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
1875.0230001APPLICATION NO.
To Be AssignedFIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Liming TsauFILING DATE
January 5, 2004ART UNIT
2823

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	6,081,021	06/2000	Gambino <i>et al.</i>			
	AB1	6,297,162	10/2001	Jang <i>et al.</i>	438	706	
	AC1	6,225,207	05/2001	Parikh	438	622	
	AD1	5,162,258	11/10/92	Lemnios <i>et al.</i>	437	184	3/20/90
	AE1	5,792,704	8/11/98	Jun <i>et al.</i>	438	624	1/4/96
	AF1	5,972,192	10/26/991	Dubin <i>et al.</i>	205	101	7/23/97
	AG1	5,990,015	11/23/99	Lin <i>et al.</i>	438	706	3/12/98
	AH1	6,048,762	04/11/00	Hsia <i>et al.</i>	438	238	4/6/98
	AI1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	WO 00/46844	08/2000	PCT	H01L	21/02	Yes No
	AM1	EP 1 073 101 A1	01/2001	Europe	H01L	21/02	Yes No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	<u>1</u>	European Search Report for Appln No. EP 02 52 0004, September 26, 2003 (date of completion of search) 3 pages
	AS	<u>1</u>	Smith, "Application-Specific Integrated Circuits," 8 th Edition, May, 2000, Chapter 4, Programmable AS/CS, 4.1 The Antifuse, pages 170-174.
	AT	<u>1</u>	Institute of Microelectronics, "Deep Submicron - Advanced RFIC Integration," <i>IME Strategic Focuses</i> , http://www.ime.org.sg/deep/deep_rfic.htm , 6/27/2002, pages 1-3.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.